

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 /047 W

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R 120831Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3276

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR JA

SUBJ: CIVAIR: CONTINENTAL AIRLINES AND TOKYO-Saipan AIR ROUTE AWARD

REF: HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN MARIANSA ISLANDS

DTR 080725Z SEP 75

1. EMBOFFS WERE CALLED TO FONOFF SEPTEMBER 12 AND INFORMED THAT GOJ PLANS MAKE FORMAL APPROACH EXPRESSING THROUGH ITS WASHINGTON EMBASSY "SERIOUS AND IMPORTANT CONCERN" REGARDING AWARD BY USCAB OF TOKYO-Saipan AIR ROUTE TO CONTINENTAL AIRLINES.

2. IN BRIEFING US, 1ST NA DIV DEPUTY DIRCCTOR NUMATA AND MATSUOZAWA STATED THAT THE BASIC GOJ POSITION ON THIS ISSUE REMAINS THE SAME AS THAT EXPRESSED BY THE GOJ THROUGH ITS WASHINGTON EMBASSY ON FEBRUARY 1, 1974. NUMATA ELABORATED BY SAYING THAT THE GOJ BELIEVES THE NUMBER OF AIRLINES SERVING THE JAPAN-GUAM-Saipan AREA IS ALREADY "SUFFICIENT" AND THE GOJ WOULD "FIND IT DIFFICULT TO CONCUR" IN THE ADDITION OF ANOTHER AIRLINE IN THIS AREA. NUMATA INDICATED THAT SINCE MUCH OF THE TRAFFIC IN THIS AREA IS SEASONAL, THE MARKET IS ALREADY "UNSTEADY AND UNPROFITABLE AS IT IS." HE FURTHER STATED THAT THE ADDITION OF A MICRONESIA-GUAM-Saipan-JAPAN ROUTE SERVED BY CONTINENTAL WOULD GIVE AN ADDITIONAL AMERICAN CARRIER THE "BENEFIT OF THE MICRONESIA MARKET"

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AND THE FACT THAT MOST OF THE PASSENGERS CARRIED COULD BE

EXPECTED TO BE JAPANESE "WOULD CREATE FURTHER IMBALANCE
IN OUR BILATERAL AVIATION RELATIONS." NUMATA THEN
REFERRED TO THE CONGESTION AT HANEDA AND
OSAKA AIRPORTS AND INDICATED THAT IT "WOULD BE DIFFICULT
TO FIND ROOM FOR THIS NEW AIRLINE."

3. IF, NUMATA CONCLUDED, CONTINENTAL IS FINALLY
DESIGNATED AS CARRIER ON THIS ROUTE, THE GOJ FEELS THAT
"RIGHTS CORRESPONDING TO THE VALUE OF THE ROUTE FOR
CONTINENTAL SHOULD BE GIVEN TO JAPAN SO AS NOT TO
AGGREGATE THE EXISTING IMBALANCE IN THE US FAVOR."
IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUERY ON THIS POINT, FONOFF
OFFICIAL SAID THAT, FOR THE PRESENT, GOJ HAD NO SPECIFIC
ROUTES IN MIND.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: NUMATA WAS CAREFUL TO EXCLUDE
OKINAWA FROM THE JAPAN-GUAM-SAIPAN AREA MENTIONED PARA
1. IT APPEARS TO US THAT IF A ROUTE AWARD MUST BE
MADE AT ALL GOJ WOULD RATHER IT GO TO PAN AM SINCE JAPAN
WOULD THEN BE DEALING WITH A CARRIER IT KNOWS WELL.
IT ALSO APPEARS CLEAR FROM FONOFF'S REMARKS, THAT SHOULD
CONTINENTAL BE GRANTED ROUTE JAL WOULD BE FAR MORE INTERESTED
IN SECURING NEW RIGHTS OTHER THAN TOKYO-SAIPAN ROUTE.
HODGSON

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